

The word today, in the Reading from Hebrews, offers us a reminder of what we can expect in the process of living out our Faith, and a positive way forward.

We are told, “Remember all the suffering that you had to meet after you received the light.....sometimes by being yourselves publicly exposed to insults and violence, and sometimes as associates of others who were treated in the same way. For you not only shared in the sufferings of those who were in prison , but you happily accepted being stripped of your belongings, knowing that you owned something that was better and lasting. Be as confident now. YOU WILL NEED ENDURANCE TO DO GOD’S WILL AND GAIN WHAT HE HAS PROMISED.” Following Jesus is not always easy. Indeed, he asks us to embrace the cross.

We can be reassured by the words of the Psalm...”The Lord guides the steps of a man and makes safe the path of one he loves. Though he stumble he shall never fall for the Lord holds him by the hand.”

Then Jesus, in the two Gospel parables about the kingdom of God, encourages us with an understanding of Faith. An acceptance of what we know to be true yet perhaps cannot see or understand. The farmer throws seed on the ground and it produces a rich harvest. **‘How, he does not know .’** The tiny mustard seed **‘somehow’** grows into the biggest shrub of them all.

Jesus taught in parables to encourage understanding. ‘But he explained everything to his disciples.’ He still does. To those who can accept the word of God and keep it.